

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, FBIS

DATE: 2 October 1964

FROM : Chief, Saigon Bureau

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report - September 1964

I. GENERAL

The 13 September coup attempt against General Khanh again shook the political structure in South Vietnam. The month also saw new and serious challenges to the government's authority in the form of a Montagnard rebellion in the highlands, labor strikes and demonstrations in Saigon, and numerous and serious demonstrations in Qui Nhon. Viet Cong-initiated military actions rose to a new weekly high during 13-19 September. The only encouraging political note was the formation of a High National Council of 17 persons in an attempt to bring some stability to the political situation. Government offices were said to be barely functioning in Saigon.

The security situation for personnel in Saigon eased somewhat when compared with August, although the night curfew remained in effect. The Lam Van Phat coup attempt, strikes and demonstrations, and occasional explosions in the capital kept people on edge.

The heads of the primary U.S. agencies operating in Vietnam again reevaluated the policy of dependents' presence in view of "recent rioting, coup attempts, and potential escalation." It was decided to continue the present policy of voluntary repatriation of dependents and to encourage "deferral travel" of dependents from the United States. This should not affect FBIS staffing plans.

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial

The Bureau operated overnight 13-14 September along with the rest of the Embassy community in view of the uncertainty surrounding the Phat coup attempt.

A total of 148 hours of broadcasts was being covered by the Bureau weekly. Publishable wordage reached a new monthly high of 225,000.

Communications

Preemptions and outages of the Embassy's unclassified circuit caused the Bureau extensive difficulties in getting its file out and in coordinating with Okinawa. (Ltr to Chief, 17 Sept 64) Outages for all causes on the send side totaled 14.5 days during the month. (See attachment for breakdown on outages)

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

Lateral Services

Ad hoc services were performed for the Special Operations Group MACV, including carbons of the early-morning Hanoi newscasts, which did not require any additional Bureau effort. Headquarters was asked to supply some [] materials for the group. (Ltr to L & R, 23 Sept 64)

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Technical

Establishment of transmitting antennas on the roof of the Annex, although they may be used only for brief periods, caused some concern lest the Bureau's reception be affected. (Ltr to Chief Engineer, 30 Sept 64)

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

Outgoing Bureau Chief [] departed at 0900 hours 13 September on the last commercial flight before closing of the airport due to the Phat coup attempt.

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[] Malay monitor, requested the early return of his wife and children to Kuala Lumpur. (Ltr to Admin, 23 Sept 64)

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Buildings and Grounds

The Bureau Chief continued to reside in an Embassy-leased hotel room pending completion of renovations on the house at []. Extensive remodeling of the half traditionally occupied by the Bureau Chief will include a new kitchen and new plumbing throughout.

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IV. VISITS

Deputy Ambassador Johnson visited the Bureau on 10 Sept 64. [] gave him a tour of the premises where he watched the live monitoring of a Sihanouk speech.

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JOHN D. CHANDLEE

Attachments:

1. Classified Personnel Report
2. Foreign Personnel Report
3. Broadcast Coverage Report
4. Communications Outage Report

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SAIGON BUREAU BROADCAST COVERAGE SCHEDULE FOR 1 OCTOBER 1964

Australia

English	Melbourne	is	0400-0410	daily	not ThF	good	2
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Cambodia

French	Phnom Penh	is	0515-0530	daily	daily	fair	1
"	"	is	2315-2330	"	"	fair	1
English	"	is	0530-0600	"	"	poor	1
Cambodian	"	ds	0700-0715	"	"	poor	1
"	"	ds	2300-2315	"	"	poor	1

China (Communist)

Lao	Peking	is	0000-0030	daily	daily	good	1
"	"	is	1100-1130	"	"	good	4
"	"	is	1300-1400	"	"	good	1
Cambodian	"	is	1200-1300	"	"	good	1
Thai	"	is	1130-1200	"	"	good	1
"	"	is	2330-0000	"	"	good	1
Malay	"	is	1000-1030	"	"	good	1

Clandestine Stations

Radio Pathet Lao

Lao	0030-0100	daily	daily	fair	2
"	0415-0445	"	"	fair	1
French	0100-0115	"	"	fair	2

Radio of the Laotian Kingdom

Lao	0500-0600	daily	daily	fair	1
Lao/French	2315-0015	"	"	fair	1

Liberation Broadcasting Station

Vietnamese	0500-0530	daily	daily	fair	1
" (D)	0530-0600	"	"	fair	3
"	1130-1200	"	"	poor	2
"	2330-2345	"	not Su	poor	2
Cambodian	1030-1045	"	daily	poor	2

Voice of the Movement for Neutral and Nationalist South Vietnam

Vietnamese/Cambodian/French	0000-0100	irreg	irreg	poor	1
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Voice of the Movement for Independent Neutral and Nationalist Thailand

Thai			0100-0130	irreg	irreg	fair	2
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Voice of Khmer Serei

Cambodian/French			2300-0000	irreg	irreg	poor	2
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Laos

Lao/French	Vientiane	ds	0530-0615	daily	daily	fair	1
Leo	"	ds	2330-0100	"	"	fair	1

Malaysia

English	Kuala Lumpur	is	0000-0015	daily	not Su	poor	2
"	Kuching	ds	1100-1115	"	" ThF	poor	2
Indonesian	Kuala Lumpur	is	0800-0810	"	" ThF	good	2
Malay	"	ds	0600-0615	"	" ThF	fair	2
"	Jesselton	ds	1130-1145	not Su	" ThFSu	poor	2

USSR

Cambodian	Moscow	is	1230-1300	TThSa	TThSa	fair	1
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Vietnam (North)

Vietnamese (D)	Hanoi VNA	n-s viet	0145-0345	daily	daily	good	2
"	"	s viet	0400-0415	"	"	fair	1
"	"	ds	0430-0500	"	"	fair	1
" (D)	" VNA	n-s viet	0830-0900	"	not SS	fair	2
"	"	s viet	1030-1100	"	" Su	fair	2
"	"	ds	1100-1130	"	daily	good	1
"	"	s viet	1200-1230	"	"	good	2
"	"	ds	2230-2300	"	not SS	fair	2
Rhade, Jarai	"	n-s viet	0345-0415	TTh	TTh	fair	2
"	"	n-s viet	1300-1330	MF	MF	fair	2
English	"	is	1000-1030	daily	MF	fair	2
"	"	is	1330-1400	"	daily	poor	2

Vietnam (South)

VIETNAM PRESS AGENCY twice-daily (Sunday, one) bulletins covered by scrutiny							
English	Saigon	is	2330-2345	daily	daily	good	2
Vietnamese	"	ds	0500-0515	"	"	good	1
"	"	ds	0900-0905	"	"	good	1
"	"	ds	2300-2305	"	"	good	1
"	Hue	ds	2310-2330	TuSa	TuSa	fair	2